

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 H-02 PA-02
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-----125630 141400Z /43

R 131230Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2071
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPNEHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ROME 6845

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, IT
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO ERW DECISION

REF: ROME 6590

1. IN SEPARATE APPEARANCES BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES APRIL 11 AND 12, MINISTER
OF DEFENSE RUFFINI AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FORLANI
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WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ON ERW. RUFFINI
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FACED WITH SUCH A RESPONSIBLE
DECISION, THE SOVIET RESPONSE WOULD BE SUCH AS TO
ELIMINATE FOR THE FUTURE THE PROBLEM OF THE ERW.
SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION HAD CERTAINLY BEEN
INSPIRED BY THE WISHES OF THE ALLIES, FORLANI ADDED THAT
THE ALLIES' POSITIONS ON THE ERW WERE LINKED TO SALT

NEGOTIATIONS, THE MORE GENERAL PROCESS OF DETENTE, AND UNDERTAKINGS TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS. A POSITIVE RESPONSE BY THE WARSAW PACT, FORLANI ADDED, WOULD AID THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND THE SSOD.

2. PCI DAILY UNITA'S ACCOUNT OF RUFFINI'S APPEARANCE REPORTS INTERVENTION BY PCI DEPUTY CORALLO WHO REITERATED THE "OBJECTIVE IMMORALITY OF THIS NEW INSTRUMENT OF WAR" AND UNDERLINED THAT ITS PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE WOULD NEGATIVELY INFLUENCE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AND WOULD LEAD TO A "DANGEROUS ESCALATION TOWARDS ARMAMENTS EVER MORE NUMEROUS AND TERRIFYING." CORALLO ADDED THAT THE GOI SHOULD TAKE A CLEAR POSITION AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF THE "N-BOMB" AND SHOULD DECLARE ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ITS INSTALLATION ON ITALIAN NATIONAL TERRITORY. UNITA PLACED ACCOUNT OF RUFFINI APPEARANCE NEXT TO MUCH LONGER ARTICLE BY MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT ON SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S DECISION. ARTICLE STATES THAT SOVIETS DO NOT BELIEVE IN CARTER'S GOOD WILL, THAT THE DECISION IS PROPAGANDA TO GAIN TIME AND TO TRICK PUBLIC OPINION, THAT "SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON" IS TRYING TO USE THE DECISION TO FORCE THE SOVIETS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON A WHOLE SERIES OF DISARMAMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO STOP "POLITICAL-MILITARY PRESSURE GROUPS IN THE U.S." IN THEIR "RACE TO REARMAMENT" IS TO INVOLVE MILLIONS

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OF PEOPLE, ALL OF HUMANITY, IN CONDEMNATION.GARDNER

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NNN

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